

Child Welfare Services

# **Children in Group Homes**

## *Characteristics*

A Point in Time Comparison Between  
March 1998 and September 2000



California Department of Social Services  
Research and Development Division (RADD)  
Data Analysis and Publications Branch

June 2001



# **CHILDREN IN GROUP HOMES**

## **FOSTER CARE PROGRAM**

**A Point in Time Comparison  
March 1998 and September 2000**

**June 2000**

**Prepared by:**

**Research and Development Division (RADD)  
Children's Team**

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## **Highlights**

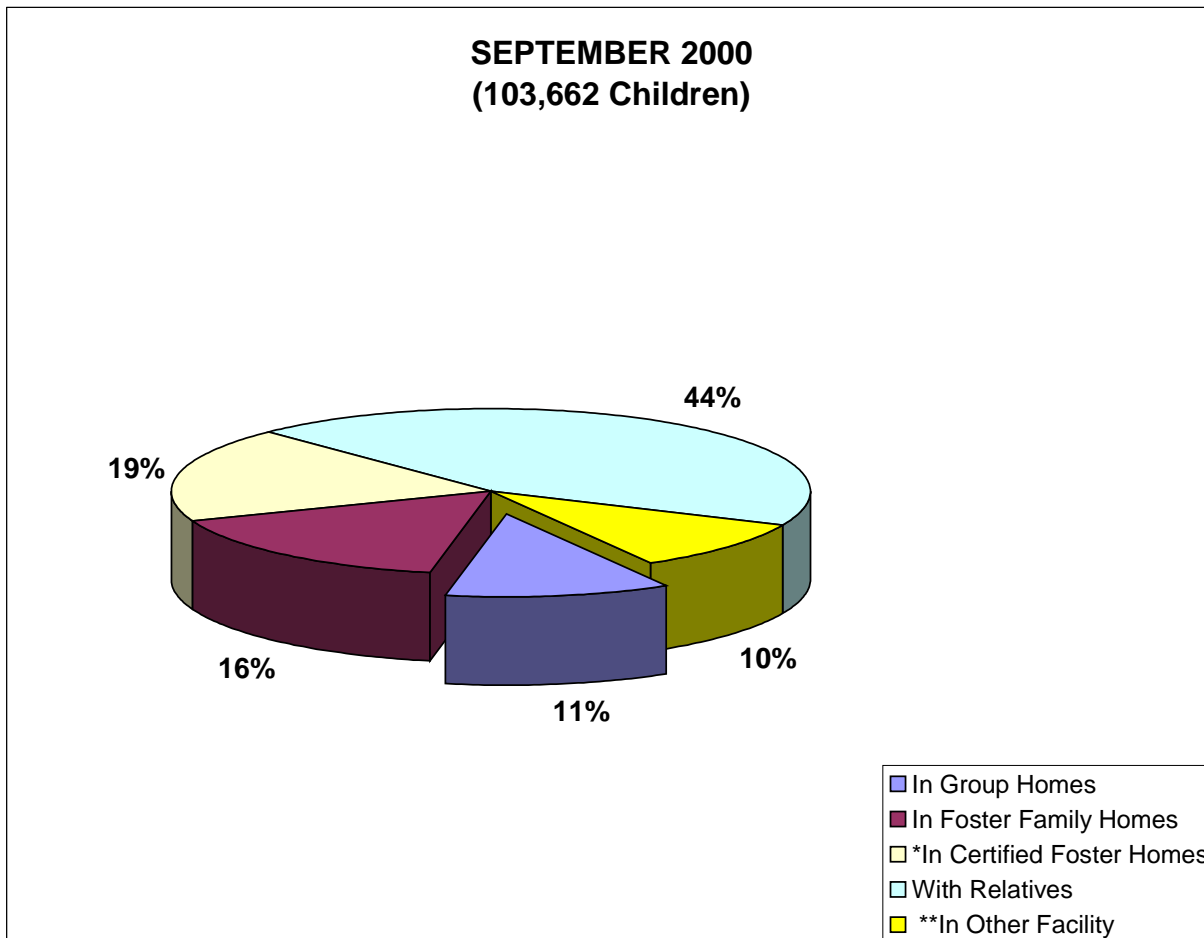
The purpose of this report is to describe the characteristics of the 11,901 foster care children placed in Group Homes during mid-September 2000, in comparison with the 13,105 children in Group Homes in March 1998 (see Group Home publication completed in March 1998). There have been two significant programmatic changes since March 1998: implementation of a new reporting system and the passage of Senate Bill 933, which requires a statewide examination of the foster care system.

Group Homes provide the most restrictive out-of-home placement option for children in foster care. They provide a placement option for children with significant emotional or behavioral problems who require more restrictive environments.

- There were 11,901 children placed in Group Homes in September 2000. These children are either child welfare supervised or probation supervised. In September 2000, county welfare departments supervised 6,794 children and county probation departments supervised 5,107 children.
- The number of children placed in out-of-state Group Homes decreased from 778 in March 1998 to 40 in September 2000.
- Most of the probation supervised children in Group Homes are 15 to 18 years old.

## **OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS**

## CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS SEPTEMBER 2000



- **Eleven percent (11%) of children in out-of-home placements were in Group Homes.**
- **Twenty-five percent (25%) of the foster care population received Services Only (not shown in graph).**

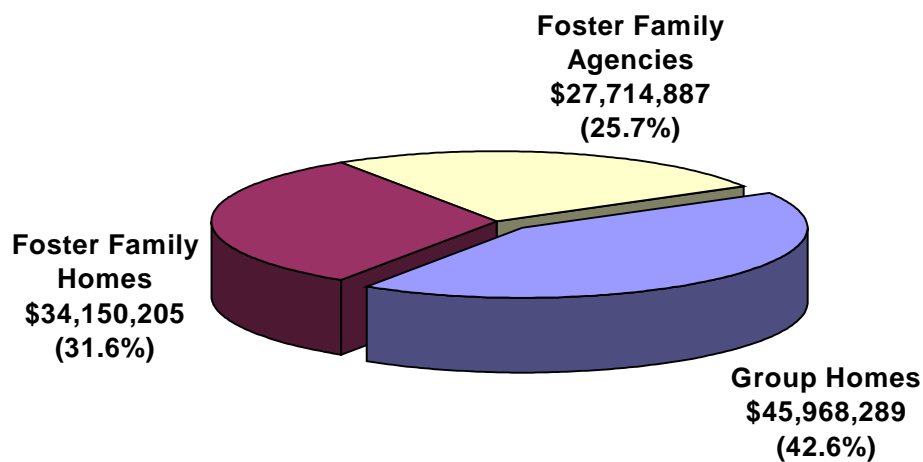
\*Represent children placed by a Foster Family Agency

\*\*Guardian Home, Shelter/Receiving Home, Small Family Home, Tribe Specified Home, or Medical Facility

Data Source: Mid-September 2000, Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS)

**EXPENDITURES  
FOR OUT-OF-HOME  
Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC)  
FUNDED PLACEMENTS**

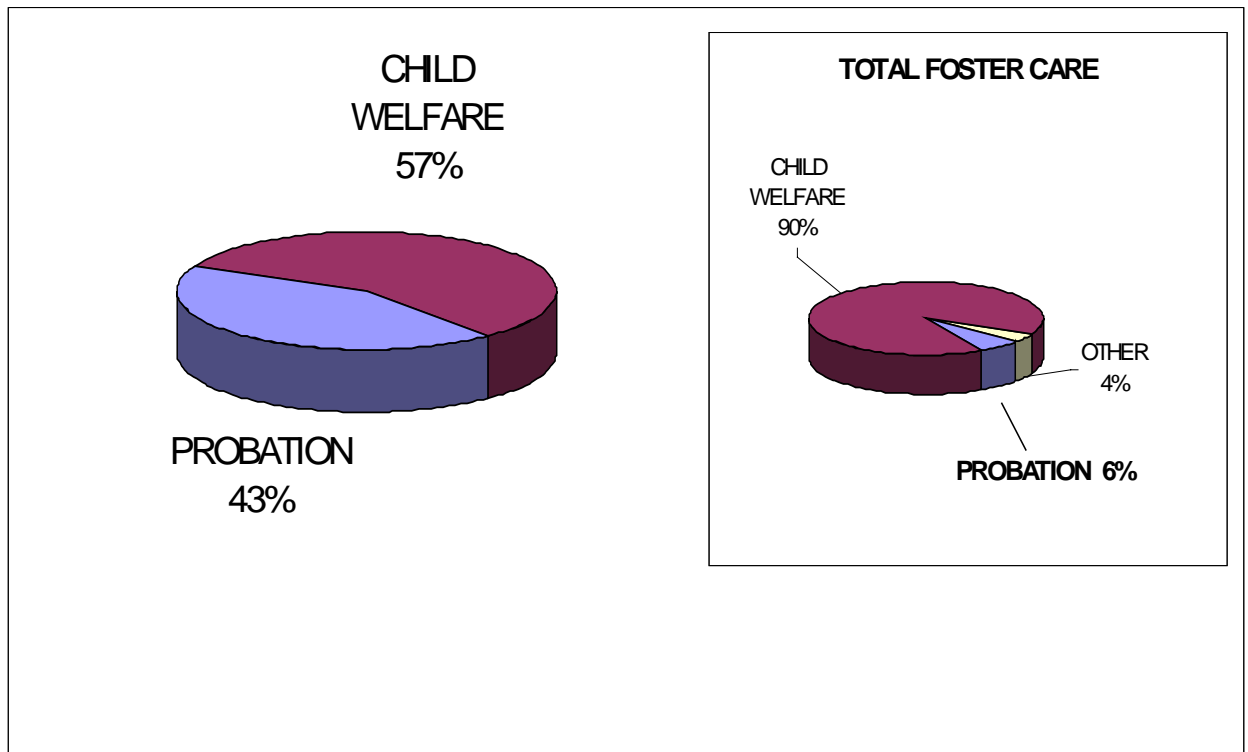
**SEPTEMBER 2000**



- Group Home placements make up approximately 11% of the foster care population. However, almost one-half of the expenditures for Foster Care are reported for Group Homes.
- AFDC-FC funded placements are out-of-home board and care payments funded with Federal, State and county dollars. The State participates in 40% and a county participates in 60% of the nonfederal share of costs.
- This chart does not include out-of-home placements funded through CalWORKs, Emergency Assistance, SSI/SSP or other funding sources.

Data Source: Mid-September 2000 CA237FC Report (provides expenditure and caseload for AFDC-FC program only)

## WHO SUPERVISED CHILDREN IN GROUP HOMES? SEPTEMBER 2000

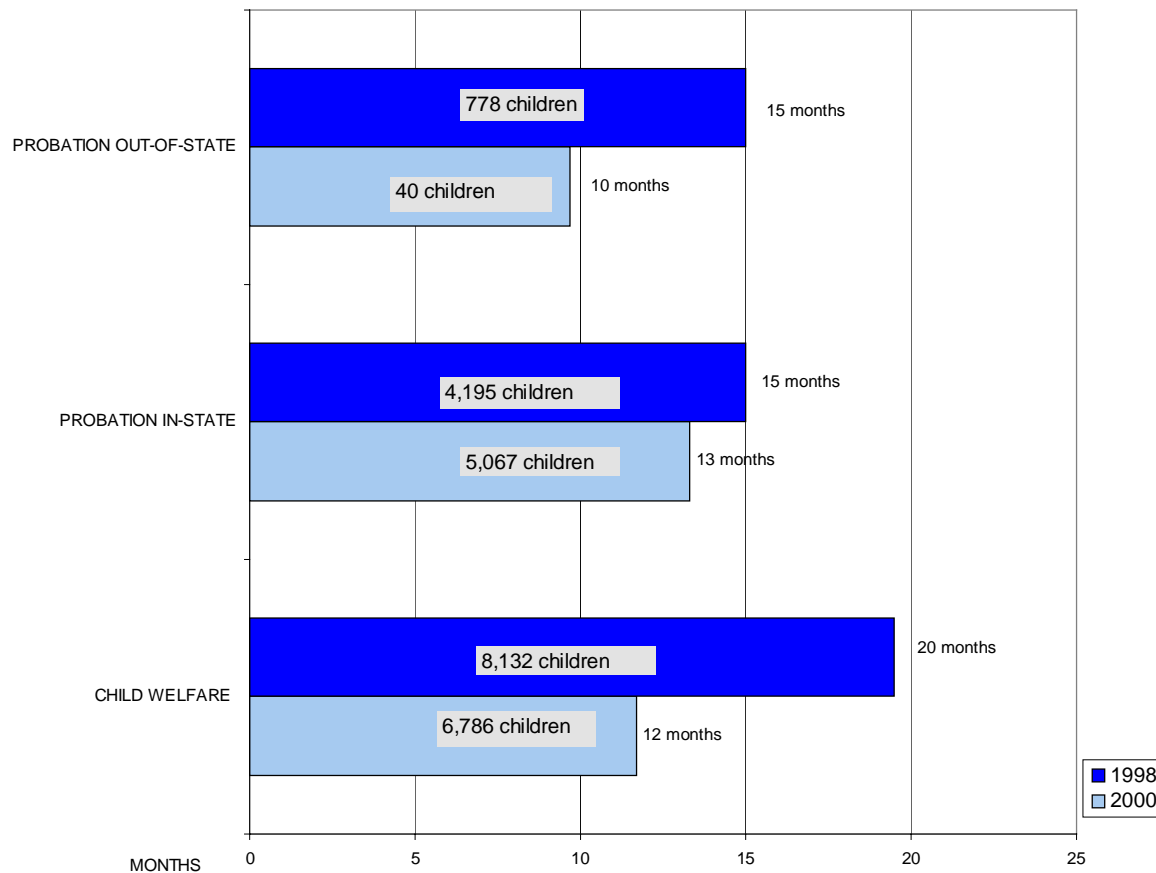


- Child welfare supervised children make up 90% of the overall foster care population, but only 57% of the Group Home placements.
- Probation supervised children represent 6% of the foster care population, but 43% of the children placed in Group Homes.
- Eighty-three percent (83%) of all probation supervised children are placed in Group Homes.

Data Source: Mid-September 2000, Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS)



## AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY IN GROUP HOME PLACEMENTS MARCH 1998 AND SEPTEMBER 2000



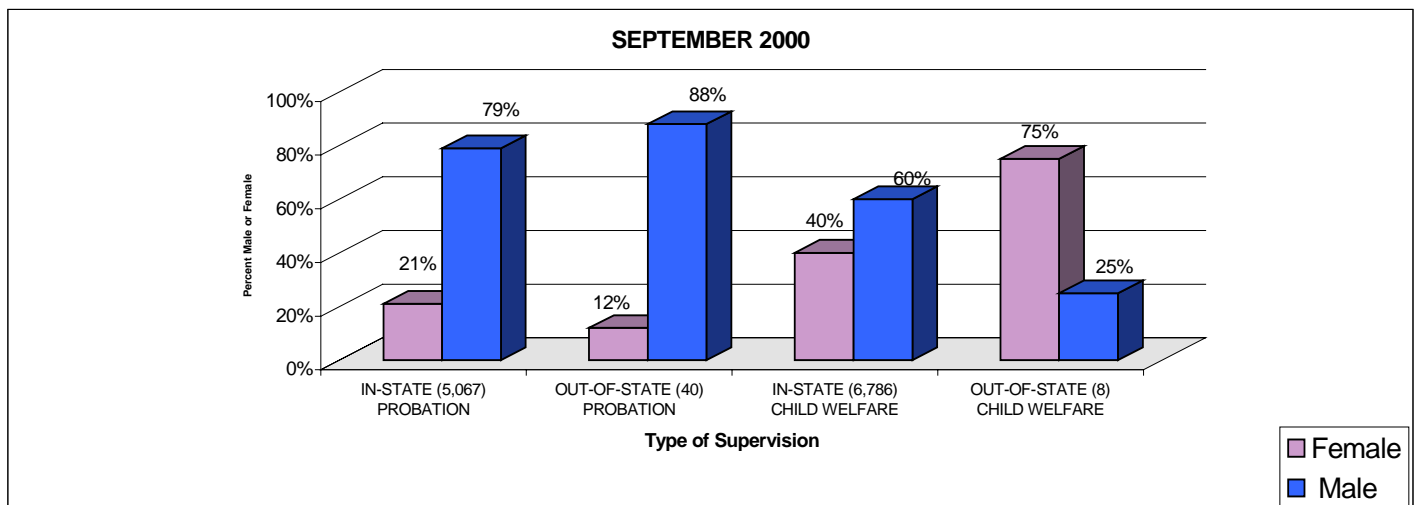
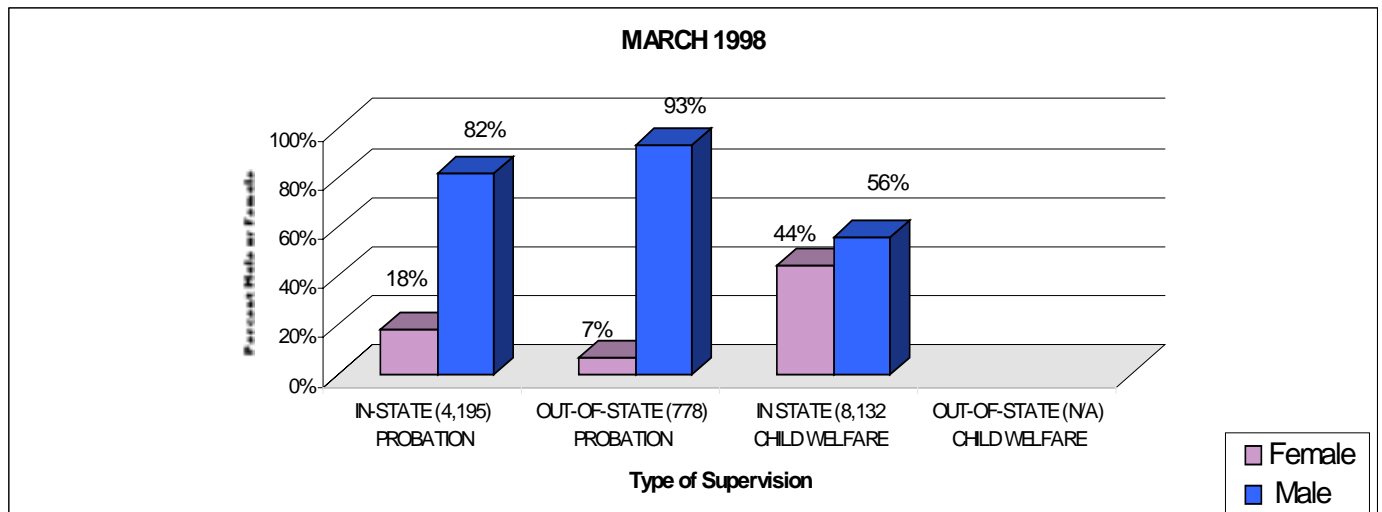
- Compared to March 1998 there was a decline in probation supervised children placed out-of-state. These out-of-state placements declined from 778 in March 1998 to 40 in September 2000.
- The decline in the number of out-of-state Group Home placements reflects the decrease in the number of licensed Group Home facilities approved by California following implementation of SB 933. In August 1998, after the passage of SB 933, there were 32 out-of-state Group Homes pending certification with California. However, by March 2000, California had only 8 certified out-of-state Group Home facilities.
- The average length of stay decreased significantly for probation supervised out-of-state placements (33% - from 15 to 10 months) and child welfare supervised placements (40% - from 20 to 12 months).

Data Source: March 1998, Foster Care Information System (FCIS)

Data Source: Mid-September 2000, Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS)

## **DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

## GENDER OF CHILDREN BY TYPE OF SUPERVISION MARCH 1998 AND SEPTEMBER 2000



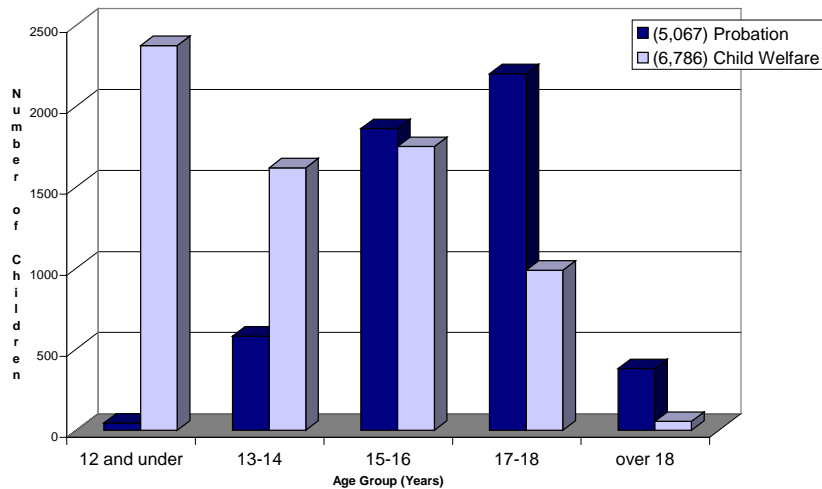
- In both time periods there are 4-5 times more males than females in the probation supervised Group Homes.

Data Source: March 1998, Foster Care Information System (FCIS)

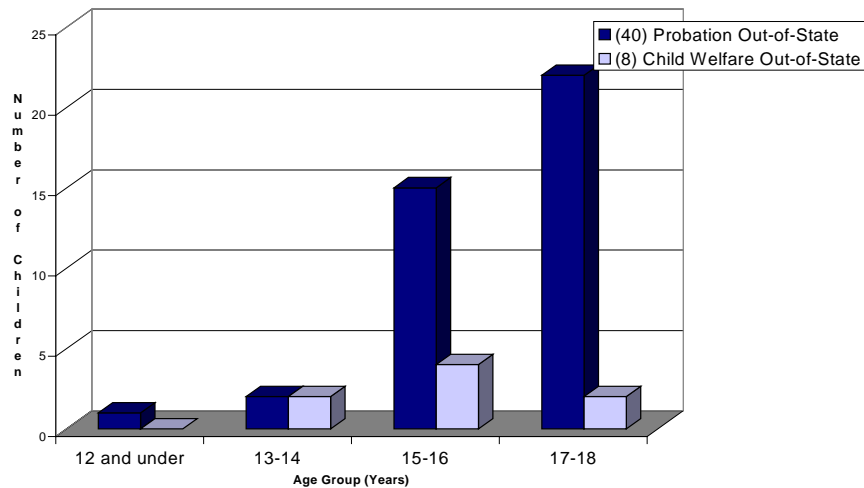
Data Source: Mid-September 2000, Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS)

# **AGE OF CHILDREN PLACED IN GROUP HOMES (BOTH IN AND OUT OF CALIFORNIA) SEPTEMBER 2000**

**PLACED IN CALIFORNIA GROUP HOMES**



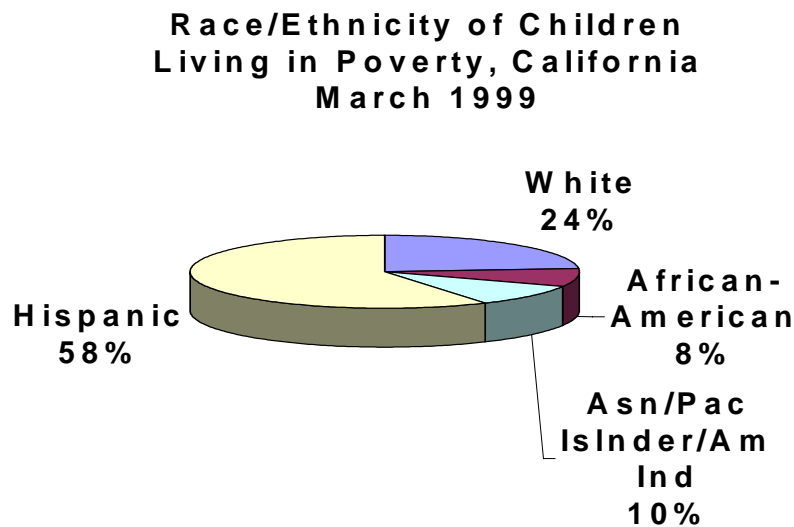
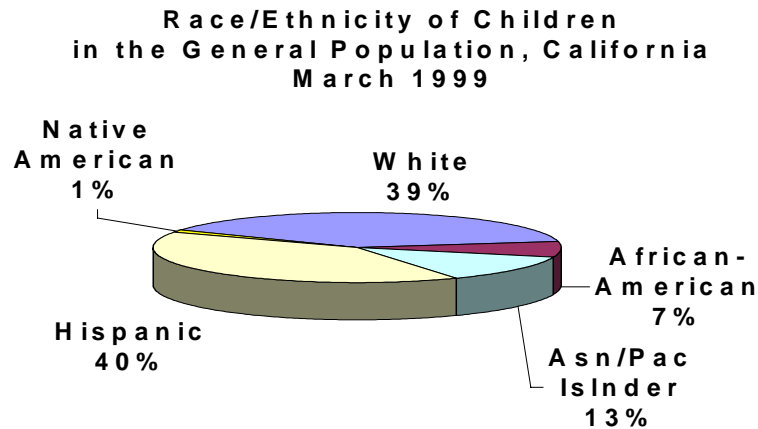
**PLACED OUT-OF-STATE**



- **Eighty-eight percent (88%) of the probation supervised children in Group Homes are 15 years and older.**
- **Child welfare supervised children are usually younger; 59% are under 15 years old.**
- **Of the 48 total out-of-state Group Home placements, 43 were 15 to 18 years old.**

Data Source: Mid-September 2000, Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS)

## RACE/ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF GENERAL POPULATION COMPARED WITH THE POVERTY POPULATION

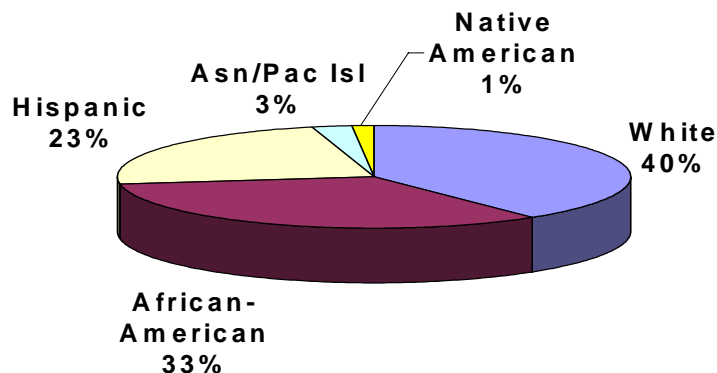


- **Hispanics account for 41% of the general population and 58% of the poverty population.**
- **In contrast, Whites are 39% of the general population and 24% of the poverty population.**

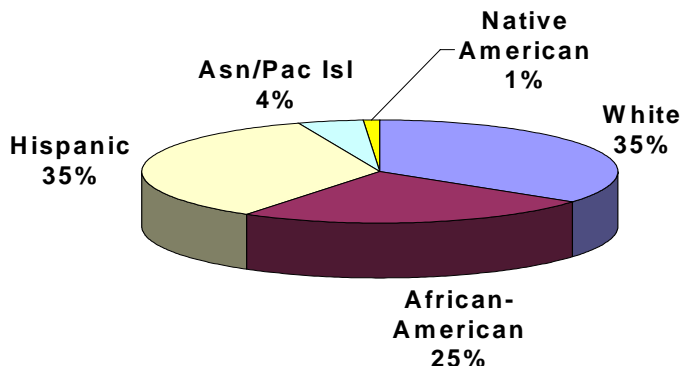
Data Source: Department of Finance Population Demographics (1999) (percentage of Native American children not shown because it is statistically unreliable)

## RACE/ETHNICITY OF CHILD WELFARE SUPERVISED AND PROBATION SUPERVISED CHILDREN IN GROUP HOMES

**Race/Ethnicity of Child Welfare Supervised Children  
September 2000  
(6,786 Children)**



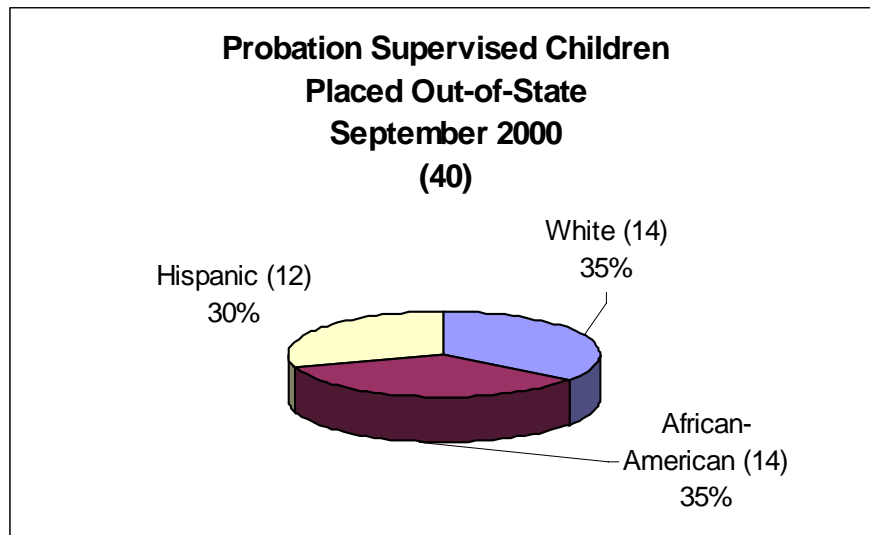
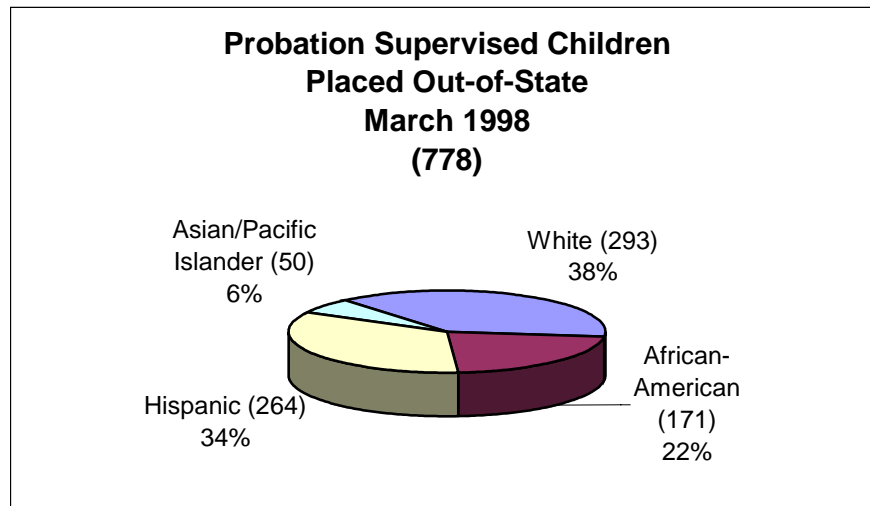
**Race/Ethnicity of Probation Supervised Children  
September 2000  
(5,107 Children)**



- **African-American children make up only 7% of the general population and 8% of the poverty population. However, they represent 33% of the child welfare supervised Group Home placements and 25% of the probation supervised Group Home placements.**

Data Source: Mid-September 2000, Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS)

## ETHNICITY OF CHILDREN PLACED IN OUT-OF-STATE GROUP HOMES MARCH 1998 AND SEPTEMBER 2000



- The number of children placed out-of-state declined from 778 to 48 between March 1998 and September 2000.
- During this period the percent of out-of-state placements who were African-American increased from 22% to 35%.

Data Source: March 1998, Foster Care Information System (FCIS). Native American data not available.  
Data Source: Mid-September 2000, Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS)

## ETHNICITY OF CHILDREN BY FOSTER CARE FACILITY SEPTEMBER 2000

	White		Hispanic		African-American		Asn/Pac Isl		Native-American		Total	Total %
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Relative Home	10,464	34%	14,618	46%	18,651	51%	1,104	35%	529	38%	45,366	44%
FFA	6,426	21%	6,355	20%	5,753	16%	686	22%	251	18%	19,471	19%
Foster Family Home	5,901	19%	4,594	14%	5,199	14%	601	19%	259	19%	16,554	16%
Group Home	4,480	15%	3,514	11%	3,351	9%	400	13%	156	11%	11,901	11%
Guardian Home	1,992	7%	1,430	4%	2,606	7%	162	5%	85	6%	6,275	6%
*Court Specified Home	659	2%	580	2%	576	2%	54	2%	33	2%	1,902	2%
Shelter/Receiving	457	1%	674	2%	318	1%	84	3%	26	2%	1,559	2%
Small Family Home	157	1%	144	0%	239	1%	22	1%	4	0%	566	1%
Tribe Specified Home	1	0%	5	0%	2	0%	-	0%	41	3%	49	0%
Medical Facility	7	0%	5	0%	5	0%	2	0%	0	0%	19	0%
TOTAL	30,544	100%	31,919	100%	36,700	100%	3,115	100%	1,384	100%	103,662	100%

- **The Group Home population of 11,901 includes both children placed in California Group Homes and the 48 children placed out-of-state.**
- **Eleven percent of children in foster care are placed in Group Homes. This percent is comparable across children of different race/ethnic groups (9%-15%).**
- **Two percent are placed in \*court-specified homes. This percent is the same across all race/ethnic groups.**
- **African-American children are more likely to be placed in relative homes (51%), compared with white children (34%). White children are more likely to be placed in Group Homes (15%), compared with African-American children (9%).**

\*A "court-specified facility" is a catch-all category which captures data on all types of placements; this is a coding error and we are in the process of correcting it.

Data Source: Mid-September 2000, Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS)



# SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS OF THE 11,901 CHILDREN PLACED IN GROUP HOMES SEPTEMBER 2000

	PROBATION IN-STATE		PROBATION OUT-OF-STATE		CHILD WELFARE IN-STATE		CHILD WELFARE OUT-OF-STATE	
<b><u>TOTAL CHILDREN</u></b>	5067	%	40	%	6786	%	8	%
<b><u>AGES:</u></b>								
12 and under	44	1%	1	3%	2374	35%	0	0%
13-14	581	11%	2	5%	1619	24%	2	25%
15-16	1861	37%	15	38%	1751	26%	4	50%
17-18	2201	43%	22	55%	988	15%	2	25%
over 18	380	8%	0	0%	54	1%	0	0%
<b><u>GENDER:</u></b>								
Female	1055	21%	5	13%	2719	40%	6	75%
Male	4012	79%	35	88%	4067	60%	2	25%
<b><u>ETHNICITY:</u></b>								
White	1774	35%	14	35%	2686	40%	6	75%
Hispanic	1241	24%	12	30%	2260	33%	1	13%
African-American	1765	35%	14	35%	1571	23%	1	13%
Asian & Pacific Islanders	227	4%	0	0%	173	3%	0	0%
Native-American	60	1%	0	0%	96	1%	0	0%
<b><u>AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY:</u></b>								
Months		13.3		9.7		11.7		11.8
<b><u>AVERAGE AGE:</u></b>								
Years		16.4		16.2		13.3		15.5

Data Source: Mid-September 2000, Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS)

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